



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

ally rejected. The merits of the *Columbus* are positive. Its defects are in most cases of a kind that will not seriously detract from the merits. It would have been more useful if Mr. Thacher had given more references to back up his text, and if somewhere he had provided a bibliography of modern critical works on the subjects that he has treated. The index is very full and, so far as I have tested it, very good.

EDWARD G. BOURNE.

A Short History of Mexico. By ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company. 1903. Pp. xi, 317.)

From Empire to Republic: the Story of the Struggle for Constitutional Government in Mexico. BY ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company. 1903. Pp. x, 336.)

MR. ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL in 1890 published *A Short History of Mexico*, which is now issued in a new edition, "thoroughly revised, and with new matter". An accompanying volume, having to do with the struggle for constitutional government, has just been issued and has been entitled *From Empire to Republic*. And, at the outset, let it be said that the latter book is much more deserving of praise, though neither can claim the indorsement of the careful student.

It may seem to some extravagant for one, upon assuming the rôle of historian, to incorporate in a preface such a motto as the following: "The sources whence the information contained in the book is derived are so many and various that it would be a waste of space to enumerate them." It is also not over impressive to learn:

This brief history was prepared with the writer's own needs in view. Having accomplished what he had vainly hoped to find accomplished for him, he at first thought of offering his work to the tourists in Mexico to aid them in enjoying the sights of that country. This idea was abandoned after the manuscript was in the hands of the publishers, in deference to the opinions of others that the book would be beneficial to the public generally, — no less in need of such a history than the tourist.

Even if the author had observed greater reticence in laying down the lines within which his work fell, the reader with any knowledge of the story of the New World and of Mexico's setting in it would soon have discovered that the *Short History* more nearly approximates a guide-book. Historical accuracy and historical method are alike cast to the wind — everywhere are the earmarks of a compilation. The great drama of the unfolding of an empire is for the author only a lot of isolated pictures, the most significant of which, for the benefit of the casual reader, have been marked with stars in the manner of Murray or Baedeker. Quite apart, however, from the failure to grasp the essentials of the development of Mexico, there are historical inaccuracies of a nature and quantity to deter the boldest purloiner of historical data.

Mr. Noll, in the opening chapter of the *Short History*, which has to do with archæological matters, seized with avidity upon the legendary

tale of the wanderings of the Aztecs from Aztlan, "‘somewhere north of the Gulf of California,’ perhaps in the locality where are found the remarkable Cliff houses of Colorado and New Mexico”, to their final stopping place. On pages 17-18 he says:

In the marshy islands near the western borders of Lake Texcoco, representatives of the poor tribe of Mexicans, wandering about in search of a place of rest, saw an eagle standing upon a *nopal* (prickly-pear cactus) strangling a serpent. This was received as a sign that the gods had selected that spot for their future home. Accordingly there was established upon that spot, in the year 1325, the nucleus of the pueblo of Tenochtitlan; that is, “the place of the *Tenuch*,” or *nopal*.

This became the famous city of Tenochtitlan, or Mixtli of the time of Cortés, the Mexico of to-day, and which, it may be said once for all, occupies throughout the book the center of the stage.

We are treated to a considerable account of the conquest, which is perhaps surpassed in elements of barbaric and heroic glamour by no other chapter in the history of the Americas. It is hardly necessary to say that the romance which has beclouded the conquest has not been dispelled in this account. Marina, the leap of Alvarado, the *Noche Triste* are still intact. Another point here, in passing. Montezuma is deliberately spelled Moteczuma! For this there can be no legitimate excuse. Moteczuma may have been discovered by Mr. Noll to be the correct spelling of the name of the fated Aztec warrior-king, but it is too late a day to compel the English public to accept such a form. One might as well insist on Colombo rather than Columbus.

The long period of the viceroys is little calculated to inspire one with respect for Spanish governmental institutions, for to follow the *Short History* there was developed no national life, and Nueva España or Mexico was hardly more than a vague territorial expanse, bordered on most sides by the unknown. As exemplifying detail and accuracy (p. 121) we learn that the successor to Viceroy Rivera “was Don Tomas Antonio Manrique de la Cerda, Marques de la Laguna, y Conde de Paredes. His reign is marked by the sack of Vera Cruz by the famous pirate, Agramont, and by the colonization of Texas and California.” This will prove edifying, for the marquis retired from power in 1686 and the first settlement in Texas was made four years later. In connection with this may be noted (p. 123) that the Count of Galve accomplished the conquest of Texas in 1691! One might be tempted to inquire what manner of conquest this was. Also it might be pertinent to remark that surely the viceroys had small matters to engage them, when (p. 143) the suppression of the Nolan expedition into Texas by Marquina is chronicled as one of the two or three great events of his reign!

The chapter dealing with the revolution of Mexico is most unsatisfactory. While the author grasped some of the leading elements which fomented the rupture, his carelessness in details and in the presentation of the facts is utterly inexcusable. The tale of the outbreak, the *Grito*

of Dolores, is largely fiction ; and nowhere in official annals can warrant be found for the figures given of the insurgent forces — they are estimated at from 50,000 to 60,000 (p. 151) when at Celaya. Much further from the truth is the statement that Guanajuato was sacked and “the people found therein were put to the sword”. It is needless to pursue the subject, but mention ought to be made of the conflicting accounts that the two books give of the trial and execution of Hidalgo, Allende, Aldama, and Jimenez at Chihuahua. In the *Short History* (p. 156) they are all executed July 30 ; in *From Empire to Republic* (p. 49) the three generals were shot “some time in June”, while Hidalgo was executed July 31.

The comparatively difficult period of Mexican history, beginning with the success of the revolution and leading down through the Mexican War and the empire of Maximilian, remains for us comparatively difficult, though *From Empire to Republic* has elucidated many of the problems left in most unsatisfactory state in the *Short History*. But even here one cannot rely, apart from other testimony, upon the facts reported. For the student of European history it will prove engaging to learn (*From Empire to Republic*, 24) that “For many years, Spain had been under the spell of the French Revolution”, and that the treaty of San Ildefonso (p. 25) was made in 1801. Equally erroneous is Mr. Noll’s statement (p. 48) that Hidalgo “attempted to send a commissioner to the United States ; but the commissioner was made a prisoner by the Spaniards.” As a matter of fact Bernardo Gutierrez, a commissioner from Hidalgo, made his way to Washington, where he received no recognition, and, returning to Louisiana, in conjunction with Magee led the most famous of all filibustering expeditions into Texas, routing three Spanish armies. Another point just here : Santa Anna’s army (p. 134) is made to appear to be 8,000 strong at the battle of San Jacinto, which was won by the Texans, yielding them their independence. The inference (p. 155) that Texas and Mexico ever maintained diplomatic relations is palpably erroneous ; as is also the statement of causes of the Mexican War (p. 160). Want of judicious attitude is perhaps nowhere shown more forcibly than when lauding the work of President Diaz : “A system of public schools has been built up which is surpassed by nothing elsewhere in the world ” (p. 302).

This notice cannot be concluded without remarking that the author has taken certain liberties with the Spanish language. He writes, for example, Manuel Godoy and Carlos María Bustamante, omitting the *de*, which is tantamount to missing the name altogether. Again, he adopts the forms Qquiches, Casas Grandes (if there is more than one the reviewer never heard of them), and Moteczuma (of which mention has been made) ; omits the accent from such words as Querétaro, Bolívar, Alhóndiga, but places it on Goliad ; and translates *golpe de Estado* “a blow to the State”. One typographical error is serious : in the *Short History* (p. 134) Galvez is made to assume the viceroyalty in 1873. In fine, spite of the formal bibliography appended to *From Empire to*

Republic, it is evident that Mr. Noll failed to make the most of his opportunities, and we can but regret with him that no "comprehensive history of Mexico exists in the English language".

WALTER FLAVIUS MCCALED.

A History of the United States for Secondary Schools. By J. N. LARNED. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company. 1903. Pp. xxx, 623, 78.)

MR. LARNED tells a story effectively; the many transitions necessary in a text-book are handled skilfully; the logical grouping by topics, rather than the common arbitrary arrangement by geographical divisions and presidential administrations, merits all praise. No other volume will give the young reader so vivid an impression of some important periods and movements.

Seventeen maps are grouped conveniently into an atlas at the front of the volume, and smaller maps are sprinkled plentifully through the text. Other illustration there is none. The bibliography contains about 350 titles, many single titles covering ten or twelve or a hundred volumes. The list is not adapted to the needs or possibilities of secondary schools. At first one might suppose it designed to indicate the author's reading; but, turning to the suggested readings for students, in three passages taken at random I find reference to Kingsford's ten-volume *History of Canada*, Force's *American Archives*, the *Works* of Adams, Jefferson, and Franklin, Dickinson's *Writings*, the New York state documents, and *The Annual Register* for 1765, besides such special or costly studies as Winsor's *Memorial History of Boston*, Frothingham's *Siege of Boston*, Hosmer's *Hutchinson*, Tudor's *Otis*, Morley's *Walpole*, and Fernow's *Ohio Valley*. In another respect these "Suggested Readings" and "Topics" at the close of the chapters are unsatisfactory: the topics are little more than a repetition of the headings of sections and paragraphs in the text, and the even distribution of references among all topics alike can afford no guidance to the pupil. Moreover the arrangement is wasteful. Chapter XII., "The Jackson Period", contains only twenty-seven pages, but the topics and references at the end take eight pages.

These superficial blemishes are not the worst. The book does not show the spirit or the results of the best scholarship. With at least three recent and admirable text-books already in the field, the public expects the maker of a new text on American history to have intimate and critical acquaintance with some important parts of the subject. Evidence of such qualification is not forthcoming. The book is the work of a gentleman of wide reading and good taste, but not of a historian or a teacher.

To illustrate the more serious faults, I take the treatment of England's commercial policy toward her colonies (pp. 111-113, 128, 132, 133). The old accounts by Bancroft, Hildreth, and Frothingham are followed, and to these writers almost exclusively students are sent for fur-